

**PREVENTION OF AND FIRST AID FOR  
SKIN IRRITATION FROM CREOSOTE**

**1. GENERAL**

- 1.01 The purpose of this practice is to provide the procedure to be used for prevention of and first aid for skin irritation from creosote.
- 1.02 It is desirable that all employees who have occasion to handle creosote treated poles and other creosote treated wood products know and follow simple precautions to prevent skin irritations which may result from contact with creosote.
- 1.03 All employees should follow the first aid practices as outlined in this practice if creosote irritation does occur.

**2. PREVENTIVE MEASURES**

- 2.01 Employees climbing, handling, or working on creosoted poles or crossarms where some of the creosote may be transferred to the skin (for example, while the poles or arms are new or during hot weather) should observe the following precautions:
  - a. *Do not* roll up the shirt sleeves.
  - b. Wear gloves.
  - c. Keep the neck well covered with a collar or handkerchief.
  - d. Keep the pant legs well down over the ankles.
  - e. When direct skin contact with creosote is likely, rub the arms, face and other possible exposed skin areas with vaseline or with medicated ointment before starting the work.
  - f. As soon as practicable after completing the work, remove the protective coating with a clean, dry cloth. Then wash thoroughly with soap and hot water.
  - g. *Never* rub the eyes or wipe perspiration off with the hands or shirt sleeve if they have been exposed to creosote.
  - h. When there has been direct skin contact with creosote:
    - (1) Wash the skin with plenty of hot water and soap.
    - (2) Coat the affected area with medicated ointment.
  - i. When creosote exposure has occurred, wash the hands, arms, face, and neck with plenty of hot water and soap before lunch and after the day's work.

NOTE: In washing the face, thoroughly wash the hands before attempting to wash around the eyes.
  - j. Clothing that has been in contact with creosote should be soaked in soapy hot water and washed as soon as possible.

3. **FIRST AID**

3.01 The following first aid procedures are to be followed for exposure to creosote:

a. Skin Irritations:

- (1) Wash the affected area with plenty of hot water and soap.
- (2) If the irritation continues for 24 hours or if a large area is affected, see a doctor for treatment.

b. Eye Burns:

- (1) Flush the eye with water by submerging the face in a basin of water and opening and closing the eyelids.
- (2) Drop two or three drops of castor oil into the eye.
- (3) Apply an eye bandage.
- (4) Obtain medical attention.